

Remarks

Claims 1-19 are pending in the application, claims 20-25 having been canceled. Claims 1 and 3-6 are rejected, claims 2 and 7-10 are objected to, and claims 11-19 are allowed. By this paper, claim 1 is amended, claim 2 is canceled and claims 26-33 are added.

Claim Rejections—35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,794,733 (Stosel et al.). As discussed below, claim 1 is amended by this paper to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention, including the addition of the limitations from claim 2, which was objected to. Amended claim 1 is believed to be allowable, and since it is the base claim for claims 3-6, these dependent claims are also believed to be allowable. Claim 1 is amended, and claim 2 is canceled, without prejudice to facilitate issuance of a patent containing the allowed claims. Applicants note that it is their intent to pursue allowance of the rejected claims in a continuing application.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner objected to claims 2 and 7-10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that each would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of its respective base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 2 depended directly from claim 1, and as noted above, the limitations from claim 2 have been incorporated into amended claim 1, which is believed to be allowable. Accordingly, claim 2 is canceled. Amended claim 1 is the base claim for claims 3-10, and therefore, each of these dependent claims is also believed to be allowable.

By this paper, claims 26-33 are added. Claim 26 includes all of the limitations of original claim 1, as well as all of the limitations of original claim 7, which was objected to.

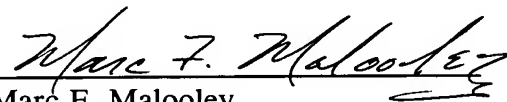
Because original claim 7 depended directly from original claim 1, with no intervening claims, claim 26 is believed to be allowable. Claim 26 is the base claim for new claims 27-33, and therefore each of these dependent claims is also believed to be allowable.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 11-19 and request allowance of each of the remaining pending claims. Included with this Amendment is a Change of Correspondence Address Application. Applicants request that future correspondence be sent to the address associated with the Customer Number identified on the Application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee of \$50.00 for one additional claim over 20 claims, as well as any additional fees associated with this filing, to the Deposit Account of Ford Global Technologies LLC, No. 06-1510.

Respectfully submitted,

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